

part for the success of democracy. This is how I will serve my country. I will learn all that I can, I will take in others' opinions and learn from them, and then without reservation I will speak my mind and let my nation know how I feel. I too am America, and I am not about to let anyone forget.

REPORT FROM FLOYD COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committee Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes".

I recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Floyd County, Indiana at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. He's Kevin Boehnlein, who is a local director here for junior achievement and whose motto is "Looking out for the future of the community". By working tirelessly for his community, Kevin epitomizes a "Hoosier Hero".

Kevin may be young but he has a giant's heart and he cares deeply about his community. Kevin is in the Jeffersonville rotary club, and has helped build homes for the needy as a member of Habitat for Humanity. He is also very active in his church. Kevin and his wife Kristen serve as a leadership team at Oak Park Baptist Church. They serve as counselors to young couples to help them maintain a strong love and faith.

Kevin's work has given so many people, the most precious gift, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book doing good work for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Kevin Boehnlein deserves the gratitude of the county, state, and nation, and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to recognize the organizers and honorees of the 1st Annual Tan Chong Padula Humanitarian Awards. The awards night will be held on May 8, 1999, at the Garden Grove Community Center in Garden Grove, CA—an endeavor to recognize and honor individuals of Chamorro descent for volunteerism and service to the community. Proceeds from this event will fund the Tan

Chong Padula Scholarship. The first such award is scheduled to be presented in the year 2000.

The idea was first proposed by Lola Sablan-Santos, the executive director of the Guam Communications Network. Contrived with the full support of the Padula/Roberto family, the annual event is a celebration of the life and accomplishments of the late Connie "Tan Chong" Padula. Tan Chong was born on May 8, 1917, on the island of Guam. She moved to the State of California and became a long-time resident of Orange County, maintaining a home in Santa Ana from 1968 until 1992.

Her civic-mindedness, in addition to her kindness, generosity, and compassion, earned her a very respected niche in her community. Never one to keep to herself, Tan Chong volunteered her services to a host of civic activities ranging from church fundraisers to the manning of polling stations during elections. As one of the founders of the Guamanian Society of Orange County, she spearheaded community activities which were almost always held at the Garden Grove Community Center. She was widely known for her great support to Chamorro community organizations throughout the State of California and for her willingness to be of assistance to those in need. Sadly, she passed away in Orange County on June 19, 1992.

This year's event will be held on the anniversary of her 82nd birthday. All honorees will receive a medallion especially crafted for this annual event by Chamorro artist Ron Castro on Guam and the top award will be presented to the individual chosen as "Humanitarian of the Year."

This year's awardees in the "Adult" category are George Afleje, Maria "Kitalang" Borja, Heidi Chargualaf, Carmen Cruz, Pacing Cruz, Perci Flores, Maria Laguana, Joaquin Naputi, Ann Pangelinan, Joe Pangelinan, Celia Perez, Suzanne Robert, Juana Sanchez, Juanita "Nita" Santos, Ernie Tajalle, and Maria Tajalle. In the "Youth" category, Michael Maguadog, Sarah Mesa, Stefanie Mesa, Bryanna "Berry" Quenga, Nikki Quenga, Michael Van Langeveld, and Tara Van Meter were selected. The honor of being chosen as the first recipient of the Tan Chong Padula Humanitarian of the Year Award goes to Juana Sanchez.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the organizers, honorees, and most of all, the Humanitarian of the Year awardee of the 1st Annual Tan Chong Padula Humanitarian Awards. Miles away from their home island of Guam, these folks managed to combine their resources in order to benefit the community in a manner that best represents our island culture. Keep up the good work! Si Yu'os Ma'ase'.

ORGAN DONATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, recently, we celebrated National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week and today I recognize the medical advances that have made organ transplantation a viable treatment option. Thanks to those who have given the gift of

life, more than 20,000 individuals received an organ transplant in 1996.

However, each year, the number of organs donated in the United States falls tragically short of the need. Sadly, more than 55,000 people are on the national organ transplant waiting list and about 10 will die each day as the waiting lists continue to grow.

Organ donation is increasing, but not fast enough to come close to meeting the need. In recent years, progress has been made in creating awareness of the need for organ donation. Most Americans indicate they support organ donation. Nonetheless, only about 50 percent of families asked to donate a loved one's organs agree to do so. Moreover, thousands of opportunities to donate are missed each year, either because families do not know what their loved ones wanted, or because potential donors are not identified for organ procurement organizations and their families are never asked.

To address these barriers to donation, government and private sector partnerships must be focused on * * *

* * * that we from government and the private sector. But most importantly, we need volunteers willing to share the gift of life. To achieve this goal, there must be an emphasis on increasing consent to donation and referrals to organ procurement organizations.

However, we must also ensure that our social and work environments are amenable to persons serving as donors. That is why I urge support of my legislation H.R. 457, the Organ Donor Leave Act, which would provide federal employees an additional 7 days to serve as a bone-marrow donor, and 30 days to serve as an organ donor.

Passage of this measure would stand as a model for private employees to amend their personnel policies to grant additional paid leave to living donors who give bone marrow, a kidney, or other organs.

Without donors, transplant surgeons cannot save even one life. With just one donor, they can save and improve as many as 50 lives. I believe that we must all pledge to join the national community of organ and tissue sharing by closing the gap between donated organs and tissue and the people who need them.

With this commitment, we pave the way for our nation to be able to answer the hopes and needs of those who now wait too long for a second chance at life.

I urge support of H.R. 457 and challenge all Americans to say "yes" to organ and tissue donation.

H.R. 1660, PUBLIC SCHOOL MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1999

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, along with many of my colleagues, I am introducing legislation, entitled the Public School Modernization Act of 1999, which consists of two education tax incentives that are contained in the President's budget recommendations for fiscal year 2000. I am very pleased that 88 Members have joined me as cosponsors of this needed legislation. I cannot imagine a better way to honor our teachers on "Teacher